



## 4th Civil Society Forum for Sustainability

**Civil Society Organisations work together towards the Spotlight Report: “How far is Europe from achieving the SDGs?”**

***Date: 3 - 4 May 2023  
(Online)***

On 3 and 4 May 2023, more than 40 Civil Society Organisations from diverse backgrounds with an interest in sustainability, a socially Just Transition and climate and environmental action continued deliberating on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Voluntary Review (EU VR).

A promotional graphic with a green background and a white torn-paper edge at the bottom. On the right is a circular diagram of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their characteristic colors. On the left, white text reads: 'Civil Society's vital role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.', 'Join our 4th Civil Society Forum for Sustainability', '3rd &amp; 4th of May, 2023' (with a calendar icon), and 'Online' (with a video camera icon). At the bottom left is the REAL DEAL logo. At the bottom right is the European Union flag and a text box stating: 'This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101037071.'

The Civil Society Forum for Sustainability, organised by [SOLIDAR](#), the [European Environmental Bureau](#) (EEB), and [SDG Watch Europe](#) under the REAL DEAL project, aims to become a friendly hub for CSOs to participate in EU processes related to the EU Green Deal and SDGs.

Together with partner organisations from WP2 and SDG WE members, we were able to ensure meaningful exchange of views using online tools such as digital boards, PowerPoint presentations and break-out groups on Zoom. The outcome contributed to the second Annual Monitoring Report on **Civil Society Spotlight Report: *"How far is Europe from achieving the SDGs?"***.

This spotlight report is a collaborative effort among a vast range of CSOs, to name a few, Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH), Macedonian Anti-Poverty Platform, European Youth Forum and Women's UN Report Network Europe. It presents why the EU's SDG reporting creates an illusion of sustainability, it flags serious gaps and challenges in the implementation of the SDGs and includes key recommendations for policymakers. Additionally, this CSO spotlight report has been presented to relevant policymakers, including DGs in the European Commission, MEPs and EP Committees with a view to ensuring citizens' and civil society's involvement in European sustainability policies in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in June 2023 as part of.

Regarding the gender balance of the fourth Forum, out of 147 registered participants, 86 identified as female, 57 as male and one as non-binary while three preferred not to indicate. Moreover, based on the eleven responses received, the participants found the structure and the content of the forum to be appropriate.

# Civil Society Forum for Sustainability: Shaping the European Green Deal

3rd and 4th May 2023, Online Meeting

The *Civil Society Forum for Sustainability – Shaping the European Green Deal* is co-organised by SOLIDAR, the European Environmental Bureau and SDG Watch Europe within the framework of the REAL DEAL project, a Horizon 2020 research project focused on reshaping citizens' participation and deliberative democracy in the framework of the EGD and green and just transition.

Specifically focused upon assessing the gaps and opportunities in implementing an ambitious EGD and the 2030 Agenda, the fourth meeting of the Forum will bring CSOs together to continue deliberations on the SDGs and the European Voluntary Review (EU VR), the first time the EU has conducted an assessment and review of the SDGs, due to be published at the end of April 2023.

Building on the results of the third Civil Society Forum meeting held in January, the main objective of the fourth edition will be develop and finalise a joint civil society spotlight report on the EU VR, in an interactive discussion during breakout sessions. The Forum will also provide an opportunity for dialogue with policymakers and a space to discuss the advocacy actions taken by CSOs at national and EU level in advance of the publication of the European Voluntary Review in Spring 2023.

The results of the discussions of the forum will be collectively compiled into a civil society spotlight report for the European Voluntary Review. This will be shared with relevant European policymakers and global fora, such as at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023, the relevant Directorate Generals in the European Commission; Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and its committees; Permanent Representations to the EU, among others.

Register to attend the meeting [here](#).

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Meeting: 14h30-17h00 CEST, Online, Zoom

14.30-14.40	Opening words and welcome by organisers	
14.40-15.00	Update on the EU Voluntary Review: Lucian Parvulescu, Twin Transition, Economic & Social Affairs, Secretariat-General, European Commission	
15.10-15.20	SDGs in 2023 and Civil Society Engagement: Hanna Gunnarsson, WECF	
15.20-16.30	Breakout sessions	Planet
		Prosperity
16.30-17.00	Conclusions and closing	

## Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Meeting: 10h00-12h00 CEST, Online, Zoom

10.00-10.10	Opening words and welcome by organisers	
10.10-10.30	Civil Society Spotlight Report Overview: Julie Rosenkilde, SDG Watch Europe	
10.30-11.40	Breakout sessions	People
		Partnerships
		Peace
11.40-12.00	Conclusions, closing and next steps	



REAL DEAL has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101037071. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.